

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-20. (Cancelled).

21. (Currently Amended) A method for determining rating data for services in a communications network, comprising the steps of:

accessing data associated with a service or a subscriber;

sending a rating request, including said accessed data, to a distributed rating means for distributed rating based on distributed rating data related to said service or subscriber;

receiving resulting rating data from said distributed rating means; and,

determining a rating value for charging said subscriber based on said received rating data;

wherein said distributed rating means is operated by a service provider, content provider, or value added service provider; ~~and,~~

wherein said rating request is sent from central rating means operated by a network ~~operator~~; operator; ~~and,~~

wherein the service provider, content provider or value added service provider and the operator maintain and control separate domains.

22-23. (Cancelled).

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 21, further comprising the step of determining pre-rating data before the step of sending said rating request.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 21, further comprising the step of determining final-rating data before the step of charging said account.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein said rating value is determined based on said pre-rating data, distributed rating data from said distributed rating means, and final-rating data.

27. (Currently Amended) A method for determining rating data for services in a communications network, comprising the steps of:

receiving data associated with a service or subscriber from central rating means;
and

accessing and determining rating data for said service or subscriber based on distributed rating data related to said service or subscriber and on said received data for transmission to said central rating means;

wherein said distributed rating data is accessed and determined by distributed rating means;

wherein said distributed rating means is operated by a service provider, content provider, or value added service provider; and,

wherein said central rating means is operated by a network operator; operator;

wherein the service provider, content provider or value added service provider and the operator maintain and control separate domains.

28-30. (Cancelled).

31. (Currently Amended) A distributed rating system for determining rating data for pre-paid services in a communications network, comprising:

central rating means including a computer apparatus adapted to:

access service data associated with a service or subscriber;

send a rating request, including said accessed data, to a distributed rating means for distributed rating based on distributed rating data related to said service or subscriber;

receive resulting rating data from said distributed rating means; and

determine a rating value for charging a pre-paid account of said subscriber based on said received rating ~~data~~ data;

wherein said distributed rating means is operated by a service provider, content provider, or value added service provider;

wherein said central rating means is operated by a network operator; and

wherein the service provider, content provider or value added service provider and the operator maintain and control separate domains.

32. (Previously Presented) The distributed rating system according to claim 31, wherein said system is a mobile communications system.

33. (Previously Presented) The distributed rating system according to claim 31, wherein said system is an IN/CAMEL system.

34. (Cancelled).

35. (Previously Presented) The distributed rating system according to claim 31, wherein said service is an electronic commerce/payment service.

36. (Previously Presented) The distributed rating system according to claim 31, wherein said resulting rating data is cost per time unit or data volume, per event, per content, a set of tariff data including cost, duration/volume, time/volume interval, or a specific scaling factor.

37. (Cancelled).
